

has been secured, as of course it will be eventually, another field of work opens up for nurses. Promotion with rank should be one of the conditions embodied in the navy bill.

THE NATIONAL RED CROSS

IN this department of the July JOURNAL we published a circular giving the plan of reorganization of the National Red Cross Society. It will be remembered that in this circular it was proposed to organize in states so that every person desiring to do so could easily become affiliated with the society. This work of state organization is well under way. In New York there are already affiliations extending throughout the state and among the names of the members are already enrolled those of Miss Delano of Bellevue, Miss Maxwell of the Presbyterian, Miss Wald of the nurses' settlement, and Miss Palmer of Rochester. Miss Delano, who is the Secretary of enrollment, urges all nurses to become members of the Red Cross Society. Such membership would not be a pledge of service, but would give nurses a vote in the management of the Society and aid in its support. The enrollment for nursing service, if we are correct, would be another matter. Application for membership in New York branch should be made to Mrs. W. K. Draper, Sec., 500 Fifth avenue, New York City.

It will be remembered that both the Associated Alumnae and the Superintendents' Association have committees on the Red Cross and that the nurses' place in the reorganization of the National Red Cross has been discussed in both Societies. Now comes a cordial invitation through Miss Delano for all nurses in New York state to full membership in that state branch, and there should be a cordial response. The fee is one dollar per year.

We will take up this subject again. In the meantime we would like to know what is being done in other states.

THE FUTURE OF THE ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

WITH the great extent and rapid development of our nurses' organizations in the last few years,—the State Association especially, with their serious undertakings in law-making and in helping to administer the law, we find ourselves confronted with many puzzling and rather discouraging questions as to the present liveliness and future vitality of our local organizations. It is no doubt owing to the greater urgency

and excitement of state work that there appears to be now a somewhat apathetic period in the history of many of our Alumnae Associations. To a certain extent this apparent dulness and loss of interest among members of local groups, the necessary counterpart of the unusually strenuous work done in larger and more public lines, is causing discouragement to the club or alumnae officers, and we receive many appeals for advice, and suggestions, as to what can be done. How keep up interest in a dormant or, apparently, dead alumnae? How stimulate and bring the members together? What is to be the future of the Alumnae Association? Is the sense of responsibility fading? These and similar questions lie heavily on the minds of faithful officers, and we purpose during several numbers discussing the matter from a broad general standpoint, and invite attention and response in the way of discussion. We have always felt that live and earnest local groups, take they what form they may, are the indispensable foot-stools on which our universe rests, and we shall endeavor earnestly to meet the question of the apparent falling away of individual interest.

A NOTABLE COMBINATION

AFTER November 1st, "Charities" of New York, and "The Common" of Chicago, will be merged. The combined weekly journal is a distinctly American idea—more or less of a Co-operative undertaking among those who know conditions first hand and are shouldering such movements as housing and child labor reform, the prevention of tuberculosis, and the social utilization of public schools. The editorship will be in the hands of Edward T. Devine, of New York, and Graham Taylor, of Chicago.

While neither periodical has hitherto gained a general circulation they have been read to a remarkable degree by editors, teachers, public officials, the executive officers of organizations, and others who get at public opinion of the community.

To develop this educational work along national lines, a publication committee has been organized with Robert W. de Forest, former Tenement House Commissioner of New York, as chairman, and including Jane Addams and Margaret Dreier Robins, of Chicago; Jacob A. Riis, Frank Tucker and Robert S. Brewster of New York; Daniel C. Gilman, Baltimore; Robert Treat Paine, Arthur F. Estabrook, Joseph Lee and John F. Moors of Boston; Simon N. Patten, Philadelphia; and S. W. Woodward, Washington.